

# THE YOUTH ADVOCACY PROJECT

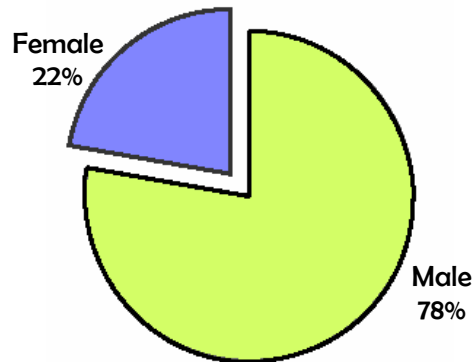
## 2004-2005 UPDATE

As of October 2005, the Youth Advocacy Project (YAP) staff has grown to include six delinquency attorneys, three education lawyers, three social service providers, two part-time psychologists, an operations manager, a community outreach worker, an executive director, a program manager, a two-person training department, and an administrative assistant. All 21 of us work to help Boston's youth gain access to zealous legal advocacy, a quality education, and essential community-based services. In the last two years alone, we have provided these services to nearly 1,000 of Boston's neediest children.



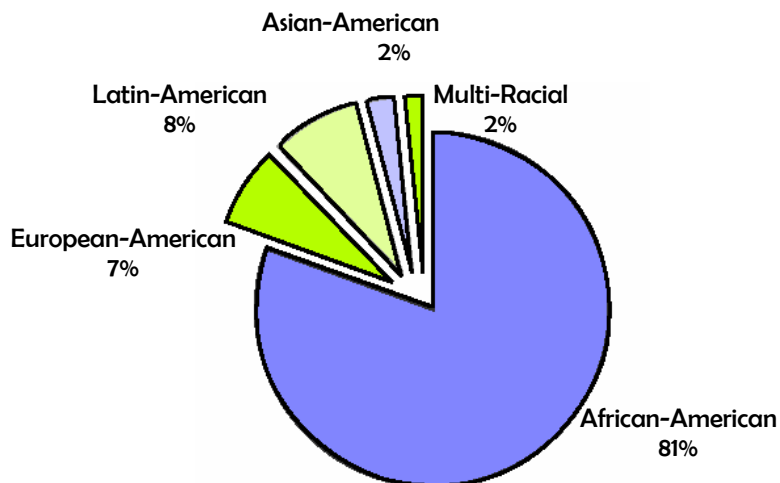
Since its inception in 1992, YAP has combined zealous legal advocacy with the goal of promoting life success for its clients. Recently, YAP formalized its approach to legal representation by adopting the framework of the Youth Development Approach (YDA). This approach focuses on healthy youth development, addresses clients' formative needs, fosters their strengths, and sets high expectations for positive outcomes. The YDA requires both an understanding of child development and the importance of helping youth build healthy qualities, such as self-esteem, a sense of security, and a belief in the future that will help them become productive adults. YAP has quickly become a national leader in this area, and has trained other juvenile defense agencies across the country in how to apply the YDA to their work.

## 2004 - 2005 Gender of Clients

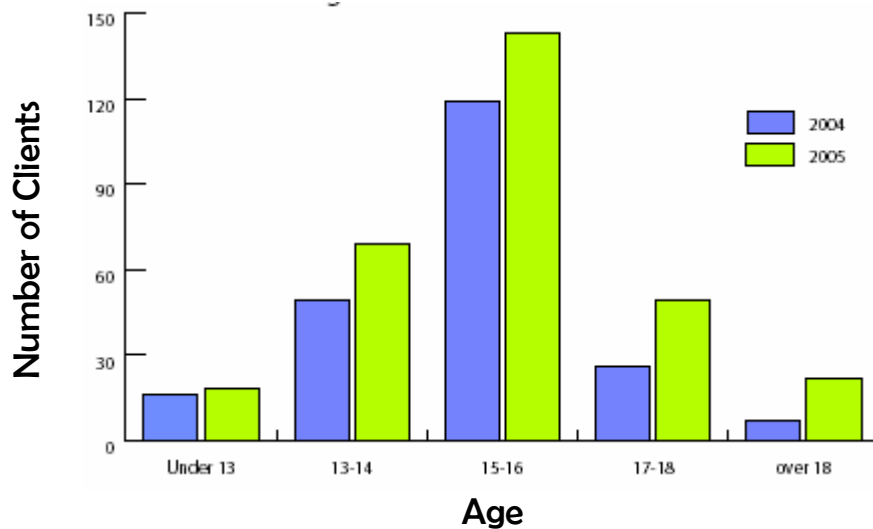


The Youth Advocacy Project plays a leadership role in Massachusetts juvenile justice by addressing emerging issues and helping to solve problems before they become widespread. For example, YAP has worked with a number of local agencies to combat the growing trend of girls' involvement in the juvenile justice system. YAP has a fulltime "girl's specialist," who works exclusively with girls, their families, and their attorneys, building an expertise on how to work effectively with girl clients. The EdLaw Project also provides training and consultation services to agencies working with girls at high risk of court involvement.

## 2004 - 2005 Race of Clients

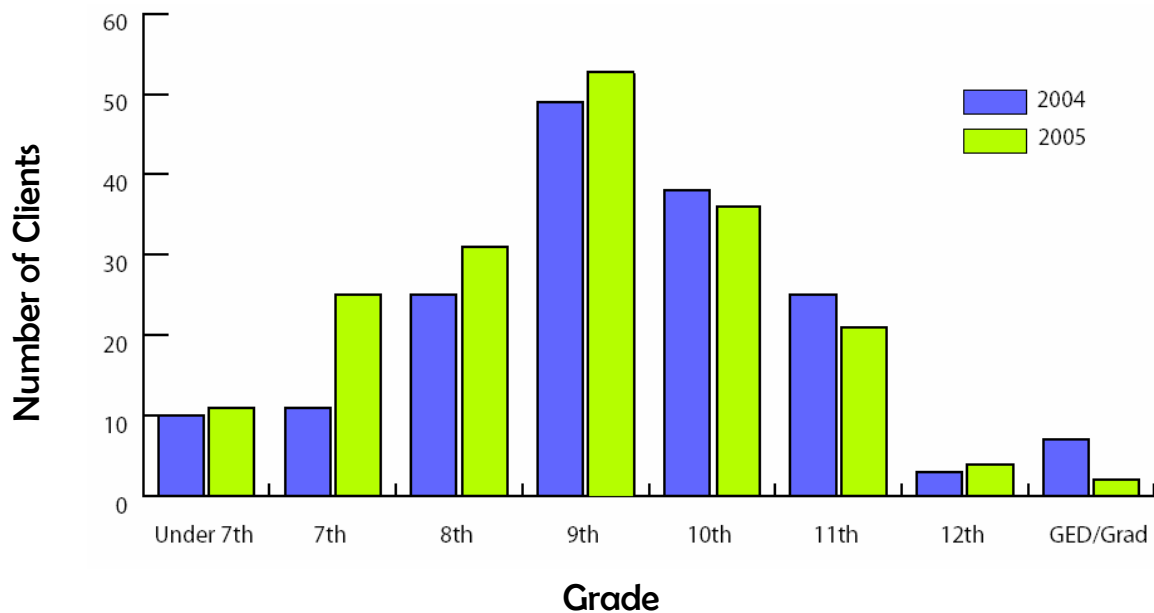


## Age Distribution of YAP Clients

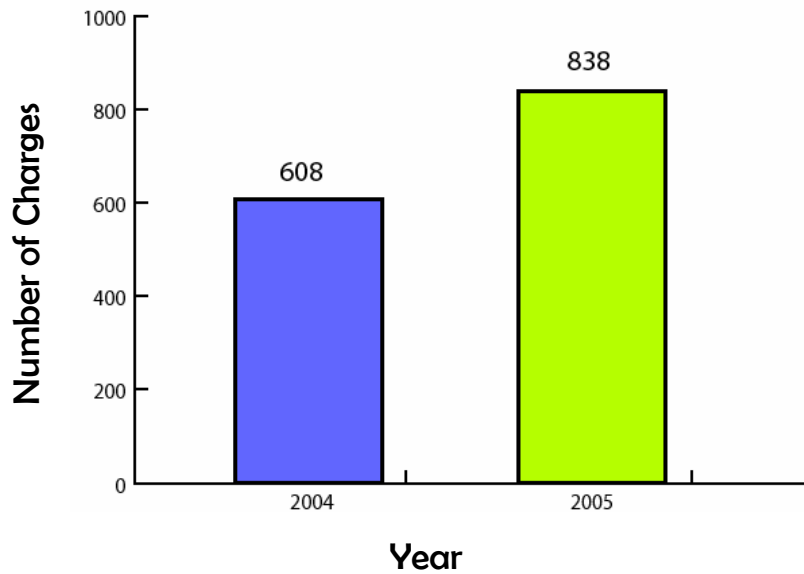


YAP continues to serve a younger and younger audience. In 2005, nearly 100 of its clients were age 14 or younger. As with girl clients, YAP is working to address this trend of increasingly younger children becoming involved in the juvenile justice system.

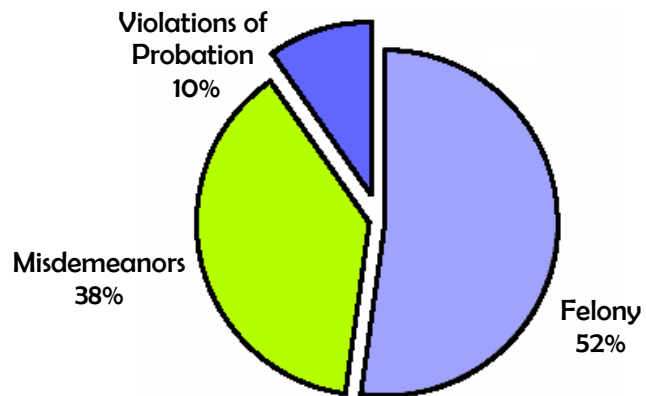
## Grade Distribution of YAP Clients



## Charges for 2004 & 2005



## 2004-2005 Breakdown of Charges



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